

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 115147

20

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG:MFR

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG

----- 066242

P R 162227Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 115147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF MAYAGUEZ

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 16.

2. Q. MR. SECRETARY, WAS THERE AT ANY TIME IN THIS
CRISIS, ANY CHANCE TO RESOLVE IT DIPLOMATICALLY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THERE WAS NO CHANCE DURING THIS
CRISIS TO RESOLVE IT DIPLOMATICALLY. THAT IS TO SAY, WE
NEVER RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION, PROPOSITION, THAT WOULD
HAVE ENABLED US TO EXPLORE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, AND IT
WAS--WHEN--BY WEDNESDAY EVENING WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY
REPLY THAT THE PRESIDENT ORDERED THE MILITARY OPERATIONS TO
BEGIN.

MR. LISAGOR.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR UP ONE MYSTIFYING ASPECT OF THIS:
WHY DID THE CHINESE RETURN THE NOTE 24 HOURS LATER?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 115147

AND DID THEY INDICATE AT THE TIME THAT IT HAD GOTTEN THROUGH TO THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: IN THIS MATTER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF THE NOTE.

BUT I AM ASSUMING THE CHINESE XEROX MACHINES CAN REPRODUCE IT WITHIN 24 HOURS.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR RETURNING IT, MR. SECRETARY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, A DEGREE OF DISASSOCIATION FROM THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS --

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEY ACTUALLY --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: -- A FORMAL DISASSOCIATION. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THIS, BUT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IN VIEW OF THE ATTEMPTS AT DETENTE WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR APPARENT--OR WITH THE WAY THEY HANDLED THEMSELVES IN THIS SITUATION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE REQUIREMENTS OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOME OF OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES HAVE TO BE SEEN IN A MORE COMPLICATED FRAMEWORK THAN IS OFTEN STATED.

BOTH THE CHINESE AND WE HAVE CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS WHICH HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WE HAVE REAFFIRMED AND WHICH WE CONSIDER REMAIN VALID.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO HAVE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS IN DIFFERENT AREAS, AND THERE WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR DIFFERENCES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 115147

THIRDLY, ONE HAS TO KEEP IN MIND IN ASKING OTHER COUNTRIES TO PLAY A ROLE, WHAT THEIR REAL POSSIBILITIES ARE IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

AND FINALLY, ONE HAS TO LEAVE IT TO THOSE COUNTRIES TO PLAY THEIR ROLE, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY -- IF THEY CHOOSE TO -- THAT THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

SO ON THE WHOLE, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A USEFUL
AREA FOR ME TO COMMENT ON.

3. Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHEN YOU REFERRED TO SIXTY HOURS
OF DIPLOMACY, ACTUALLY I AM TOLD THERE WAS FIGHTING
WHICH RAN THROUGH THIS WHOLE SEQUENCE -- THAT THERE WAS
FIGHTING THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH, THERE WAS SOME SHOOTING
AT AMERICAN VESSELS THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH. THE
CAMBODIANS SAY THAT WE BEGAN STRAFING AT DAWN ON THE
13TH. SO THERE WAS, BY BOTH SIDES' ACCOUNTS, EVEN THOUGH
THEY DON'T MATCH --THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A CONSIDER-
ABLE AMOUNT OF SHOOTING ALL DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE
DIPLOMACY WAS BEING ATTEMPTED. COULD WE HAVE A BETTER
BREAKDOWN ON THAT POSSIBLY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: FOR ABOUT SIXTY HOURS WE MADE NO
ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE SHIP. WE MADE IT VERY CLEAR FROM
THE VERY BEGINNING -- THE PRESIDENT IN HIS STATEMENT --
THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT WERE SENT TO WHOEVER WE THOUGHT
MIGHT HAVE A POSSIBILITY OF REACHING THE CAMBODIANS--
AND IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS THAT I MADE ON MONDAY AND
TUESDAY -- WE MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT WE
INSISTED ON THE RELEASE OF THE SHIP AND THE MEN.

THEN WE TOOK COLLATERAL ACTIONS TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT
FOR THEM TO MOVE THE MEN AND TO SPEED UP THE PACE OF
THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE AMERICAN
MESSAGE REACHED THE CAMBODIANS? AND IF YOU ARE SATISFIED,
WHAT GIVES YOU THAT --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, I AM POSITIVE THAT OUR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 115147

MESSAGE REACHED THE CAMBODIANS BECAUSE WE DELIVERED IT
TO THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING, IN ADDITION TO
EVERYTHING ELSE. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MAYAGUEZ SS, NAVAL COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE115147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OVARMSTRONG:MFR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0539
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750543/aaaabmxq.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <09 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEIZURE OF MAYAGUEZ
TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006